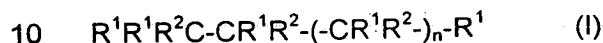


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

5

1. A composition which includes at least the components A, B, C and D,

where component A is either a sulfonate of the formula (I)



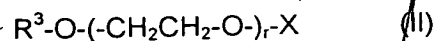
where n is from 0 to 8, any  $R^1$  is independently of the others hydrogen, an alkyl radical of 1 to 4 carbon atoms, an unsubstituted phenyl radical or a phenyl radical substituted by a radical of the formula  $-SO_3^{\ominus}M^{\oplus}$ , and any  $R^2$  is independently of the others  $R^1$  or a radical of the formula -

15  $SO_3^{\ominus}M^{\oplus}$ , subject to the proviso that component A contains at least one radical of the formula  $SO_3^{\ominus}M^{\oplus}$  and M is Na, K or  $NH_4$ ,

or where component A is a polyhydric aliphatic alcohol of 2 to 12 carbon atoms,

component B is an ethoxylated alcohol of the formula (II) or a mixture of such alcohols

20



where r is from 1 to 8,

25

component C is an alkoxylate of the formula (III) or a mixture of such alkoxylates



30

where t is from 4 to 30, 20 to 80% of all the Z groups present are  $-CH_2CH_2-O-$  and 80 to 20% of all the Z groups present are  $-CHR^4-CHR^5-O-$ , where in each case one of  $R^4$  and  $R^5$  is hydrogen and the other is  $CH_3$ ,  $R^3$  in both component B and component C is a linear or branched alkyl radical of 4 to 20 carbon atoms and 50 to 100% of all the X's present are hydrogen and 0 to 50% of all the X's present are a methyl, ethyl or phenyl radical,

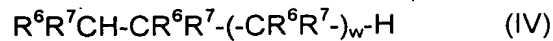
35

and component D is water.

Pub. No. 9,999,999

2. A composition according to claim 1, wherein component A is a sulfonate of the formula (I) where at least one of all the  $R^2$  radicals present is  $-\text{SO}_3^{\ominus}\text{M}^{\oplus}$ .

3. A composition according to claim 1, wherein component A is a sulfonate of the formula (IV)

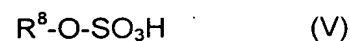


where w is from 1 to 3, one of the  $R^6$  radicals is an unsubstituted phenyl radical and all the other  $R^6$  radicals are hydrogen, and one of the  $R^7$  radicals is  $-\text{SO}_3^{\ominus}\text{M}^{\oplus}$  and all the other  $R^7$  radicals are hydrogen.

4. A composition according to claim 1, wherein component A is sodium cumenesulfonate or potassium cumenesulfonate.

15 5. A composition according to claim 1, wherein component A is a dihydric or trihydric alcohol of 4 to 8 carbon atoms.

6. A composition according to claim 1, additionally comprising a component E and/or a component F, component E being a magnesium salt or a calcium salt and component F being an alkali metal salt or ammonium salt of a sulfuric monoester of the formula (V)



where  $R^8$  is a linear or branched alkyl radical of 4 to 12 carbon atoms.

25 7. A composition according to claim 1, including per 100 parts by weight of water (component D) the following amounts of components A, B, C, E, F:

5 to 35 parts by weight of component A,

30 10 to 40 parts by weight of component B,

3 to 30 parts by weight of component C,

0 to 30 parts by weight of component E,

0 to 20 parts by weight of component F.

35 8. A process for treating fiber materials, which comprises applying to the fiber materials a composition according to claim 1.

9. A process according to claim 8, wherein the fiber materials are 70 to 100% by weight cotton.

10. A process according to claim 8, wherein the composition is applied to the fiber materials in the course of the pretreatment.

5 11. A process according to claim 8, wherein the fiber materials are textile wovens or knits.

09638066-101300